

## Draft for Discussion

*The civil society members of the JFC seek the greatest possible input from interested civil society members on this “Request for Submissions” and the Discussion Paper. Comments and feedback on this document are requested by 23 December, although inputs provided after that date will still be taken into account. Please contact Ian Plaskett at [ian@civicus.org](mailto:ian@civicus.org).*

### **Civil Society Members of World Bank-Civil Society Joint Facilitation Committee**

Action Aid\*Amnesty International\*Association for Women’s Rights in Development\* Caribbean Policy Development Centre\*CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation\* Europe and Central Asia (ECA) NGO Working Group\*Global Movement for Children\* Interaction\* International Confederation of Free Trade Unions\*Transparency International\*World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)\*World Council of Churches\*World Wildlife Fund\*World Young Women’s Christian Association\*Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support\*

## REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON WORLD BANK - CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT:

### **Overview of the Discussion Paper**

The civil society members of the JFC are in the process of producing a *Discussion Paper* to examine World Bank engagement with Civil Society. This paper has three main objectives. First, it will provide perspectives on recent relations between the World Bank and civil society organizations, and identify some of the major issues and challenges in those relations. Second, it will formulate a set of recommendations for improving Bank practice with respect to its engagement with civil society organizations for consideration by the World Bank’s management and Board. Third, it will propose a tentative set of principles that could guide future World Bank–civil society engagements.

In developing this *Discussion Paper*, the civil society members of the JFC will seek the greatest possible input from interested members of civil society, particularly in borrowing countries. We recognize that the range of issues potentially addressed in the *Discussion Paper* is expansive and analytically complex, and that civil society perspectives on these issues will be diverse, multifaceted and, at times, contradictory. Therefore, the paper will not seek to articulate a comprehensive or unitary “civil society position” on the issues under review. Instead, the civil society members of the JFC will consult and solicit inputs from a broad range of civil society organizations, and will seek to fully capture the richness and diversity of these perspectives.

To achieve the objectives of the paper, the authors will consider a broad array of primary and secondary source material, including:

1. written submissions and surveys of past participants in World Bank engagements;
2. primary and secondary research on the World Bank’s overall policies, practices and terms of engagement with civil society;
3. interviews with civil society and World Bank actors;
4. the outcomes of national-level consultative workshops;
5. other organizational or individual submissions on issues of concern to the contributor;

Further information about the JFC, including the Terms of Reference for the *Discussion Paper*, can be found at:

[http://www.civicus.org/new/PG\\_world\\_bank-CSO\\_engagement.asp?c=FD8912](http://www.civicus.org/new/PG_world_bank-CSO_engagement.asp?c=FD8912)

### **Request for Submissions**

As a critical input into the *Discussion Paper*, the civil society members of the JFC seek written contributions from civil society organizations on various aspects of World Bank-civil society engagement. These submissions will be used in two ways. First, all of the submissions will be used to build a body of knowledge about civil society perspectives on engagement with the World Bank that the authors will draw upon in drafting the *Discussion Paper*. Second, because the civil society members of the JFC believe that civil society experiences should be related on a first-hand basis wherever possible, we seek to include some submissions directly in the *Discussion Paper*. Preference for inclusion will be given to submissions that:

1. Address issues or consultative processes of broad interest to civil society;
2. Are authored by contributors that have been extensively involved in the issue or process to be discussed;
3. Reflect the perspectives of a range of organizations that were extensively involved in the issue or process, and that have been broadly distributed within these networks for comment and approval;
4. Address experiences in countries in which the World Bank has a particularly strong presence (for submissions that consider country-level issues or processes);
5. Are analytically rigorous and well-written.

### **Topic Areas for Submissions**

We have identified four main topic areas in which we are seeking submissions. These are not exclusive, and we would welcome additional suggestions for issue areas to be addressed in the *Discussion Paper*. They are:

**1. Perspectives on engagement:** Civil society organizations have used a number of different political strategies to engage and/or confront the World Bank. Some have focused on external protest and confrontation, while others have engaged on an ongoing, or even cooperative basis, and still others have adopted a hybrid “inside/outside” strategy. Broadly, these different strategies can be described as *principled non-engagement*, *comprehensive engagement*, and *selective engagement*. The civil society members of the JFC recognize that each approach can be a legitimate and effective means of affecting institutional reform and policy change, and seek to ensure that each perspective is incorporated in the *Discussion Paper*. Towards this end, we invite organizations that have adopted each strategy to contribute submissions that describes why they chose to employ that strategy, and how useful it has been for achieving organizational objectives. Further guidance on the issues that we encourage submitters to address is provided in Appendix A.

**2. Participant perspectives on various international, national, and local level consultative processes:** One of the primary objectives of the *Discussion Paper* is to provide perspectives on recent interactions between the World Bank and civil society organizations. We hope to achieve this objective primarily through submissions by civil society participants in a diverse sample of international, national, and sub-national engagements with the World Bank. We therefore invite participants from past World Bank consultative processes to describe their experiences in both successful and unsuccessful engagements. These submissions should address the extent to which the participants found the engagements to be meaningful, worthwhile, or effective in influencing World Bank operations or policy, and in achieving broader civil society objectives. Further guidance on the issues that we encourage submitters to address is provided in Appendix B.

Potential engagement processes to be reviewed may include:

- (a) **International consultations:** (e.g. World Commission on Dams, Extractive Industries Review, the SAPRI process, the HIPC initiative, and the Resettlement, Forestry, Indigenous Peoples and Disclosure policy reviews).
- (b) **National consultations:** (e.g. PRSP and Country Assistance Strategy consultations).
- (c) **Project-Level consultations:** (e.g. local consultations around specific projects or programs)

**3. Constituency Perspectives:** Some civil society organizations representing specific constituencies have interacted with the World Bank in a number of different consultative processes. For example, labor unions, indigenous peoples' organizations, and women's rights advocates have each engaged the Bank on multiple occasions, and at both the national and international levels. We seek submissions from these constituency-based organizations to better understand how the World Bank has taken their rights and interests into account across a range of engagements. Further guidance on the issues that we encourage contributors to address is provided in Appendix C.

**4. Disclosure and Transparency:** The civil society members of the JFC believe that complete and timely public disclosure of information is a necessary prerequisite to meaningful public participation in policy dialogues and project decision-making. We therefore solicit submissions from civil society organizations regarding how the Bank's transparency and information disclosure practices should be improved to facilitate more meaningful public involvement in decision-making.

### **Contact Information**

To discuss a submission, or for questions or comments on this *Request for Submissions*, please contact project staff:

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## Appendix A

### Guidance on Submissions Regarding Perspectives on Engagement

The civil society members of the JFC are seeking inputs that elaborate upon the various strategies of engagement or confrontation employed by civil society organizations. We invite organizations that have adopted different engagement or confrontation strategies to contribute a submission that describes why they chose to employ that strategy, and how useful it has been for achieving organizational objectives. We encourage submitters to be creative in addressing these issues, but suggest they address the following questions in preparing their submissions:

1. **Description of organization or network:** What are the most important issues for the organization/network?
2. **Political context:** What is the status of the organization in the domestic political context? How successful has the group been in defending their rights and interests in domestic political processes? How have they organized to defend their rights and advance their interests?
3. **World Bank's place in the political context:** How do World Bank policies or practices affect the interests of the group? Why did CSOs focus on the World Bank as an object of campaigning?
4. **Engagement/Confrontations with the World Bank:** Why did the organization choose to confront or engage the Bank as it did? What other options did it consider, and why did it reject or abandon them? How did the organization think that the campaign/engagement would move the issue forward? How did it force or bring the WB to the table to address the issue? Was the WB originally viewed as an impediment or lever for positive change?
5. **Reflection on whether consultation served larger political objectives:** Did the strategy meet the CSO's objectives? What, if anything, was achieved? Did World Bank policy or practice improve? Did the strategy help achieve changes that would address the broader issues? Did it help the group gain leverage in the domestic political context? What factors led to its success or failure from the CS perspective?

*Please limit your contribution to approximately 10-12 single-spaced pages.*

## Appendix B

### Guidance for Submissions Regarding Specific Engagement Processes

We encourage submitters to be creative in addressing the most important issues presented in each engagement process. However, we believe that discussions of specific engagement processes will be most useful if they are framed in the broader political context in which they take place. For this reason, we propose that submitters address the following questions, in addition to whatever other issues they choose.

1. **Importance of the issue:** What issues were at stake? Why were they important locally, globally, and/or nationally? Who was affected by them, and how?
2. **Political context of issue and consultation:** How did CSOs seek to change the status quo? How did they organize themselves and build coalitions? What did they seek to achieve?
3. **World Bank's place in the political context:** What was the WB's role in the issue? Why did CSOs focus on the WB as an object of campaigning? How did they think that the campaign would move the issue forward? How did they force or bring the WB to the table to address the issue? Was the WB originally viewed as an impediment or lever for positive change?
4. **Overview of consultation:** How were the consultations structured? How were the issues framed? Was the structure of the consultation and issues to be addressed responsive to civil society concerns?
5. **Assessment of quality of consultation:** Were the consultations well run? Inclusive? Transparent? Was sufficient information provided to allow for meaningful consultations? Were CSO concerns adequately responded to and reflected in the final outcomes?
6. **Reflection on whether consultation served larger political objectives:** Did the consultation meet CSO expectations? What, if anything, was achieved by engaging the WB? Did engagement improve WB policy or practice? Did it achieve changes that would address the broader issues? What factors led to its success or failure from the CS perspective?

*Please limit your contribution to approximately 10-12 single-spaced pages.*

**Appendix C**  
**Guidance for Submissions Regarding Constituency Experiences in Engagement  
with the World Bank**

We encourage submitters to be creative in addressing the most important issues presented in each engagement process. However, we believe that discussions of specific engagement processes will be most useful if they are framed in the broader political context in which they take place. For this reason, we propose the following questions as a point of departure for the discussion:

1. **Description of constituency:** What are the most important issues for the constituency for development?
2. **Political context:** What is the status of the group in domestic political contexts? How successful has the group been in defending their rights and interests in domestic political processes? How have they organized to defend their rights and advance their interests?
3. **World Bank's place in the political context:** How do World Bank policies or practices affect the interests of the group? Why did CSOs focus on the World Bank as an object of campaigning?
4. **Engagements with the World Bank:** In what processes has this group engaged directly with the Bank? How did they think that the campaign would advance their interests? How did they force or bring the WB to the table to address these issues? Was the WB originally viewed as an impediment or lever for positive change?
5. **Reflection on whether consultation served larger political objectives:** Did the consultation meet CSO expectations? What, if anything, was achieved by engaging the WB? Did engagement improve WB policy or practice? Did it achieve changes that would address the broader issues? Did it help the group gain leverage in the domestic political context? What factors led to its success or failure from the CS perspective?

*Please limit your contribution to approximately 10-12 single-spaced pages.*